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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 22 | Humidity 71% Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 80,334 | Nifty 24,273 | Gold 99,600 | Silver 99,000 | Dollar 85.71 | Euro 96.30 | GBP 112.75

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As crimes involving house helps continue in city, police advise families to do background checks before hiring helps or make use of police checks through the Seva Sindhu app

WHODUNNIT?

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When the Mehtas of Indiranagar hired a live-in domestic help through a friend's referral, they never imagined the woman would vanish within a week, along with ₹2.5 lakh worth of gold jewellery and a set of expensive wireless earbuds.

Their story is not unique. Bengaluru has been witnessing a sharp spike in thefts and frauds committed by domestic staff, helps, cooks, drivers, and even temporary cleaners. But police say their hands are often tied, not because they aren't investigating, but because households aren't doing their due diligence before welcoming strangers into their most private spaces.

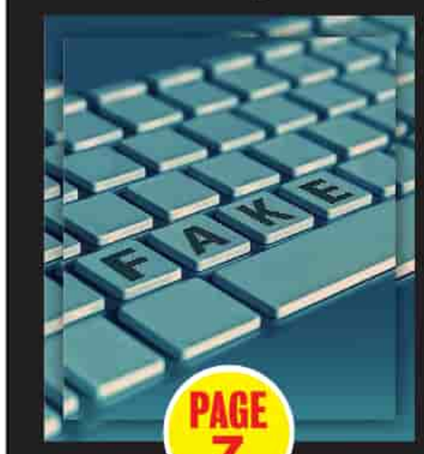
Rising numbers, fewer leads

According to city police, verification of domestic help can be done

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

MISINFO OVERLOAD

UGC steps in after fake notice claiming all exams are cancelled due to war situation starts circulating in its name



PAGE 7

THINGS TO DO

01 Literary journey

As a part of the inaugural edition of goREADS, goSTOPS is organising a book discussion for Can't, Eden Abandoned, and Hell Hath No Fury, authored by Shinie Antony, short-fiction writer, novelist, editor, and co-founder of the Bangalore Literature Festival. **Where: goSTOPS, HSR Layout; When: May 10, 4 pm**

02 Beat drop

SOCIAL X ODDVISION is presenting Adam Rahman, alongside Rishi Sippy, GST, Stinger, and Sharun for a night of techno. **Where: SOCIAL Indiranagar; When: May 11, 7 pm**

03 Musical evening

Windmills is presenting The Arinjoy Trio, one of India's most electrifying blues acts, who have carved a distinctive place in the Indian music scene with their dynamic interpretations of blues music. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: May 9 and 10, 9.30 pm**

04 Harry Potter merch

MINISO India is organising the second chapter of the exclusive Harry Potter pop-up studio, bringing the spellbinding charm of the wizarding world to life with over 300 officially licensed Harry Potter products available exclusively. **Where: Nexus Mall, Koramangala When: May 1 to June 3**

05 Fresh produce

Ragi Kana is presenting a special edition of its weekly Santhe, celebrating the arrival of summer's most cherished fruits—mango, jackfruit, chikoo, and guava. The Santhe will feature a wide selection of locally grown, chemical-free produce. **Where: Ragi Kana, Gottigere; When: May 11, 11 am**

DKS' airport flyover plan encounters scepticism

Experts say that government keeps adopting band-aid approach, emphasise flyover is only temporary solution that fails to address root causes of problem

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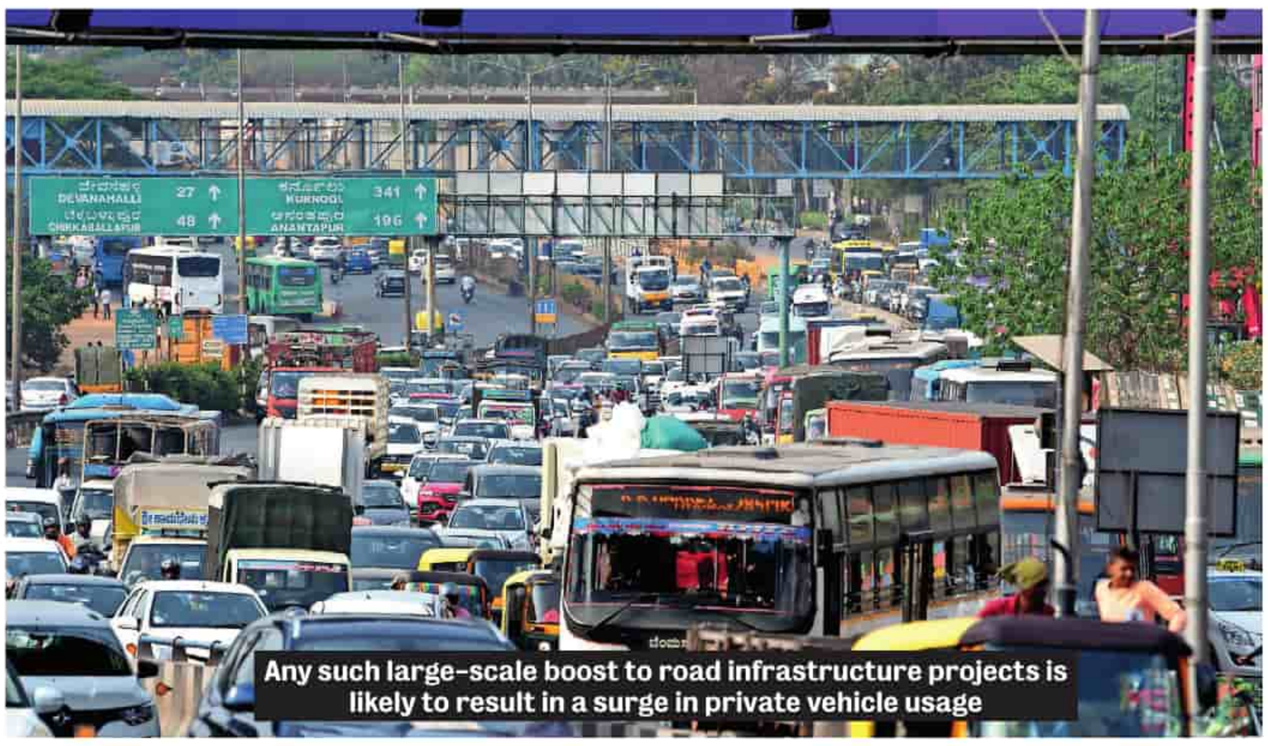

Any such large-scale boost to road infrastructure projects is likely to result in a surge in private vehicle usage

Deputy CM's letter claimed that since the existing 35-km corridor from Hebbal to the airport is choked with traffic, the new flyover could serve as a critical lifeline for the city's mobility

City-based mobility experts have raised concerns over Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar's recent proposal to the Union Ministry for a dedicated elevated flyover connecting Hebbal Junction to Kempegowda International Airport.

While the Deputy CM's letter to Nitin Gadkari underlines that a signal-free, dedicated flyover would drastically cut travel time for airport passengers, industrial freight vehicles, and daily commuters, experts say such decisions should be based on a scientific analysis of the situation. It is said that any more road networks in the city should be created only after a feasibility analysis. Any such large-scale boost to road infrastructure projects is likely to result in a surge in private vehicle usage.

"All mass transit projects, metro or suburban rail, are facing challenges with deadlines. While these projects are terribly behind schedule, a series of road infrastructure projects are being announced by our Deputy CM. Such initiatives will only worsen traffic congestion in the city," said a mobility expert.

The Deputy CM's letter to the Union Ministry claimed that since the existing 35-km corridor from Hebbal to the airport is choked with traffic due to rising industrial activity and the emergence of commercial hubs, the new flyover could serve as a critical lifeline for the city's mobility.

According to Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor of Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru and a mobility expert, the root cause of the traffic issue is lawlessness being practised by the decision-makers. He points to the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, which states that every metropolitan area shall have a metropolitan planning committee to prepare a draft development plan. Bengaluru has been devoid of such a committee so far.

Experts say that the government keeps adopting the band-aid approach instead of pursuing holistic development. A flyover or tunnel is seen as a temporary solution that fails to address the root causes, allowing the underlying issues to persist and escalate over time.

"We are fed up with the executives ignoring the constitution, the provisions for urban planning, master plan, capacitance of the metropolitan planning committee (MPC), etc, as a result of which the city is paying the price in terms of unplanned development. We don't need a panacea, we need a cure," he said. He emphasised that planning must take precedence, with a master plan issued through due process, ensuring that only recommended projects are systematically undertaken. He added that the Union Minister should insist on Karnataka having an operative master plan, with an embedded transport plan, before any funds are disbursed to the state.

BMRCL enhances safety, accessibility at metro stations

In a significant step towards strengthening passenger safety and improving service efficiency, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has deployed an advanced CCTV surveillance system and introduced self-service ticket machines across its network.

A new high-tech surveillance system has been commissioned across six key metro stations between Baiyappanahalli and MG Road. Launched on May 6, the system includes AI-powered video analytics and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology to enhance security across station premises. In addition to monitoring station interiors, the surveillance covers the station perimeters, enabling metro authorities to maintain round-the-clock situational awareness and detect potential threats

in real time. "The safety of our passengers is of utmost importance," said M Maheshwar Rao, Managing Director, BMRCL. "The integration of AI-based surveillance and ANPR technology equips us with the tools to act swiftly and ensure a secure environment across the metro network."

Alongside safety upgrades, BMRCL has taken another leap towards digital transformation by introducing 10 Self-Service Ticket Machines at Baiyappanahalli Metro Station. These machines are designed to offer fast, contactless, and user-friendly ticketing through a simple two-step process. Commuters can select their destination using a route map or dropdown menu, confirm passenger details, and make payments through any UPI-enabled mobile application. The machine then issues a paper QR ticket, which can be scanned at both entry and exit gates. "This initiative aims to gradually phase out traditional single journey tokens, reduce waiting time, and promote eco-friendly practices by encouraging commuters to dispose of used paper tickets in designated bins," a BMRCL official said. The official added that these efforts reflect the ongoing commitment to embracing smart, sustainable, and commuter-friendly technologies.

— BMB

Construction for Indiranagar basketball court commences

The groundbreaking ceremony for the basketball stadium at Victory Grounds, Indiranagar 1st Stage took place on Thursday, marking the beginning of construction. The organisers conducted the function under police protection amidst resident opposition to the basketball stadium's construction.

Bangalore Mirror published a story 'Indiranagar residents oppose basketball stadium project' on May 5, narrating how the residents were against the upgradation of the basketball court at the Victory Grounds.

"We were stopped at the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) ward office by the police, stating that the authorities concerned do not want us to attend the event. We have been opposing the construction of a stadium on the Victory Grounds," said Sneha Nandihal, core member of I Change Indiranagar. Bangalore Mirror had also published a story 'Basketball court by day, tipplers' field by night' on April 29, highlighting how residents were frustrated after repeatedly reporting the deteriorating condition of the basketball court and Victory Ground, littered with garbage, plastic, and liquor bottles.

— Y Maheswara Reddy

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Railways asked to justify need to axe 84 heritage trees

Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee raises questions as it submits report on proposal to axe 368 trees at Cantonment Railway Colony campus

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The committee wants confirmation that tree removal is a last resort for the project

In a report filed with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) has asked the Railway authorities to justify the proposal to cut 84 out of the 368 trees at the Bangalore Cantonment Railway Colony campus. These 84 trees have been classified as 'heritage' trees by BMC members based on frameworks established by the National Biodiversity Authority, the Wildlife Protection Act, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The 84 trees in question include 2 Banyan trees, 5 Peepal, 4 Fig, 1 Sampige, 7 Honge, 11 Jackfruit, 2 Jamun, 1 Kadamba, 5 Almond, 39 Mango, 2 Neem, 1 Amla, 1 Sandalwood, 2 Tamarind, and 1 Teak tree. "The railway authorities have been asked to justify the felling of 84 out of the 368 trees, including Indian Sandalwood, a species listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)," stated the BMC report. This report was filed after a spot inspection conducted on May 7, following public outcry over a notice regarding the removal of 368 trees for a commercial development project.

The BMC conducted the inspection to evaluate the environmental impact of the proposed tree removal on biodiversity and the disruptions to local flora and fauna. During the inspection, BMC noted that the railway authorities had numbered the trees from 1 to 368, encompassing 44 species. Among these, 8 trees had dried, and 181 trees were invasive species, particularly paper mulberry. Out of the remaining 179 trees, around 84 were identified as heritage, native, or vulnerable.

> **"The site is located in an urban zone, which already faces vehicular traffic and environmental sensitivity** – BMC report

BMC highlighted that the site is located in an urban zone, which already faces significant vehicular traffic and environmental sensitivity due to limited green cover. The proposed construction would require the removal or translocation of several trees within or adjacent to the station premises, in residential areas like Jayamahal, Vasanth Nagar, Nandi Durga Road, Benson Town, and Queens Road. Additionally, the area is near heritage sites such as St. John's Cemetery and sensitive zones including Jain Hospital, CSI Hospital, an old age home, and schools and colleges. "The process of tree removal or translocation must be approached with scientific scrutiny and compliance with regulatory frameworks, including those outlined by the Karnataka Forest Department and the Tree Preservation Act of 1976," BMC emphasised.

The committee has also stated that if the felling of trees is deemed necessary, the project proponent should submit an undertaking confirming that tree removal is a last resort. This should be done in consultation with the Karnataka Forest Department and following the Karnataka Tree (Preservation) Act. Furthermore, the project proponent must implement measures for conservation, compensation, and translocation of heritage trees to ensure an 85% survival rate and submit the adopted methodology to the BMC.

'BBMP will be holding a public consultation regarding the project on May 20.'

After stray dog attack, BBMP ramps up rabies control

Safeguarding strays through timely vaccination

The Animal Husbandry Department and Veterinary Sciences, in association with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Animal Husbandry Department, has launched vaccination for rabies at Nirman Layout and Hullahalli near Jigani in Anekal Taluk to prevent rabies spreading to street dogs and animals.

The veterinary doctors have launched a rabies vaccination programme on Thursday at two locations, Nirman Layout and Ullahalli. According to reliable sources, one dog affected with rabies attacked six dogs and a few cows around Nirmal Layout and Ullahalli. The dog was allegedly killed by some residents and a FIR was registered at Jigani Police Station. Post-mortem report revealed that the dog was infected with rabies. Bangalore Mirror published a story – Stray dog's murder sparks vaccination drive demand – on May 6, narrating how citizens have raised an alarm over the killing of a stray dog at Nirman Layout near Jigani. "We have vaccinated more than 100 stray dogs and cattle at two locations," said a veterinary doctor.

It is said the veterinary doctors are set to complete vaccination for stray and pet dogs and cattle against rabies within one km radius of Nirman Layout and Hullahalli. It is called Ring Vaccination. The next step of vaccination for stray dogs and cattle will be extended to a three to five kms radius from Nirman Layout and Hullahalli.

Bangalore Mirror had reported about the killing of the stray dog, on May 6

BBMP Deputy Director (Animal Husbandry) Chandraiah said the BBMP Animal Husbandry Department has deputed two teams of dog catchers to Nirman Layout and Hullahalli. "We have provided around 12 dog catchers to the rabies vaccination programme. They will assist the veterinary doctors during the vaccination programme," he said.

Meanwhile, animal activists and pet lovers want the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences Department to give a 5-in-1 vaccine for stray dogs instead of rabies vaccine. "The 5-in-1 vaccine guards stray dogs against five severe diseases such as canine distemper, adenovirus type1 and type 2, parainfluenza, and parvovirus," said Razia Khan, a dog feeder and rescuer.

Expressing the similar opinion, Arun Prasad, an animal activist, has said the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences Department has to take measures to vaccinate all dogs and cattle in the area to prevent rabies spreading to animal species at Bannerghatta National Park and nearby forest. "The authorities have to give a 5-in-1 vaccine for the welfare of stray dogs and cattle," he said.

Wondering why the Animal Birth Control (ABC) and Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) programmes are not extended beyond the BBMP limits, Sujaya Jagadeesh, SPCA member, has said the authorities should prefer a 5-in-1 vaccine instead of rabies vaccine. "Dogs affected with rabies will be dangerous for humans, dogs and animals. The authorities concerned have to take up ABC and ARV programmes on the outskirts of Bengaluru and rural areas," she said.

— BMB

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Careless storage

CV Raman Nagar

In Ward 57, C V Raman Nagar, documents have been left outside for over six months. A missing paper from a file could cause trouble for the property worker, while staff remain inside, and records are left exposed outside.

Waste zone

Eshwara Layout

The footpath at the corner of 14th Cross and 17th E Cross in Eshwara Layout has become a garbage dumping spot, leaving pedestrians with no choice but to walk on the road.

Blocked road

Rajarajeshwari Nagar

In Rajarajeshwari Nagar, vehicles parked improperly along the double road frequently block half of 3rd Cross Road, with customers of nearby vegetable shops adding to the congestion.

How 'tech support' scam stole musician's digital life

Musician's Google account, linked to her monetised YouTube channel, gets hacked after technician manipulates her into sharing credentials; despite recovery attempts, her account stays compromised, halting operations and income

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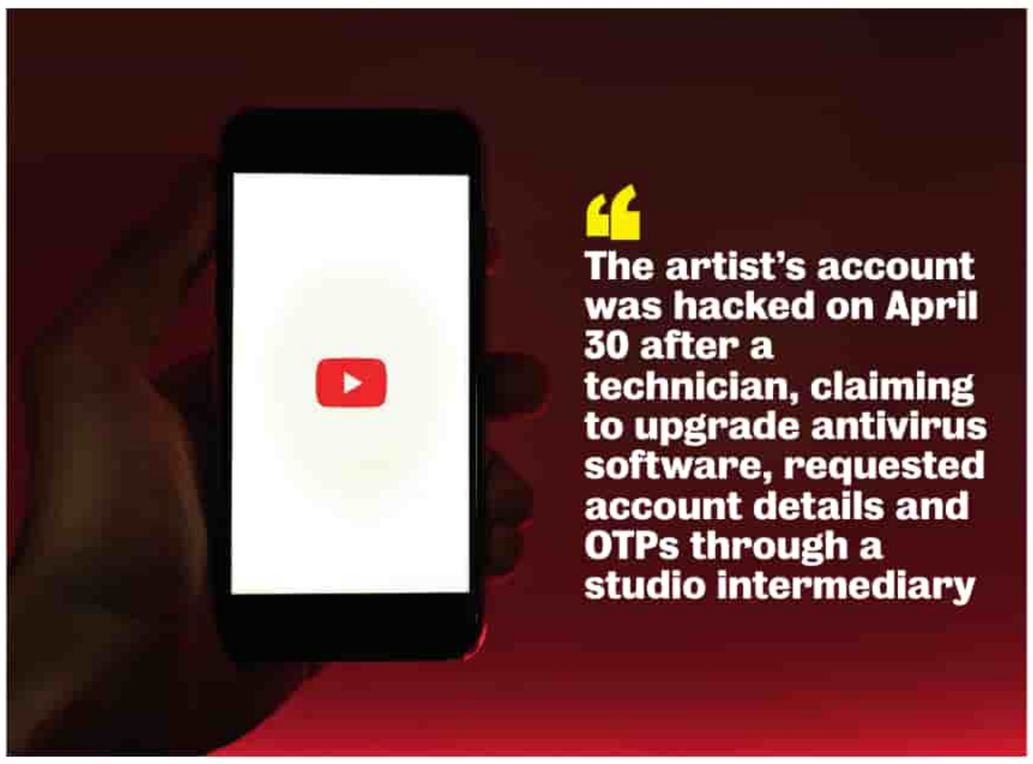
"
The artist's account was hacked on April 30 after a technician, claiming to upgrade antivirus software, requested account details and OTPs through a studio intermediary

The hack led to suspension of the Google Business profile, halting operations

A Bengaluru-based musician has filed a cybercrime complaint after losing access to her Google account, which was linked to a monetised YouTube channel with over two million views. The incident highlights how even Google's security systems can be bypassed through manipulation.

The artist's account was reportedly hacked on April 30, following an interaction with a technician who had been contacted for software maintenance at her recording studio. Under the guise of upgrading antivirus protection, the technician requested the Google account ID, password, and several OTPs sent to the registered mobile number. The access was granted through a studio intermediary, as the musician wasn't physically present at the time.

Soon after sharing the credentials, the recovery email and mobile number linked to the account were changed to unknown ones. She was logged out of all devices and locked out of her Gmail account, which is the central login for her YouTube channels, Google Business profile, and other essential services.

Despite raising a recovery request with Google, her attempts were unsuccessful. Two days later, on May 2, the hacker uploaded a series of unrelated videos, including game cheats and software hacks, to one of her YouTube channels, violating the platform's policies and potentially jeopardising her monetisation.

The incident highlights how human manipulation, rather than technical flaws, remains one of the easiest ways for attackers to breach digital accounts, even those protected by multi-factor authentication. The victim had originally linked the account to a professional identity and depended on it for income and digital presence. Following the hack, her Google Business profile was suspended, halting operations entirely.

This case has now been taken up by the East Division's CEN Police Station under cybercrime investigation. The victim has provided documentation to verify ownership and is awaiting account recovery. Experts warn that users must remain extremely cautious about sharing credentials, even with seemingly trusted technicians and to avoid disclosing verification codes under any circumstances.

In the era of digital livelihoods, this breach serves as a reminder that online security isn't just about strong passwords; it's about vigilance.

BMTC bus hits divider, injures two

KAUSHIK JN

BMTC bus crashed into a road divider

Two workers were injured on Thursday after a BMTC (Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation) bus rammed into a road divider at Sangolli Rayanna Circle near Kempegowda Bus Station.

The injured persons are identified as Shameem, a 23-year-old from Uttar Pradesh, and Hussain, a 35-year-old resident of Anjanapura. According to a press release from the BMTC, the injured persons were admitted to KC General Hospital for treatment. "The two workers were shifted to another hospital after availing the first aid at the KC General Hospital. We do not have further information about them. The bus driver and conductor received minor injuries in the accident. The bus was heading towards Vishwanatha Nagenahalli from the Kempegowda Bus Station," the press release read.

–BMB

Lokayukta seizes ₹26.5 crore in raids

Karnataka Lokayukta Police on Thursday conducted raids at over 24 locations in Bengaluru, Kolar, Davanagere, and Yadgir districts. The searches were in connection with disproportionate assets (DA) cases registered against four government officers.

In Bengaluru, the Lokayukta team searched nine properties linked to G Srinivasa Murthy, Executive Engineer, BBMP. Officials uncovered ₹3.45 crore worth of assets. In Kolar, Suresh Babu G was found in possession of assets worth ₹8.18 crore. MB Ravi from Davanagere had assets valued at ₹2.31 crore, while Dr Raja Venkappa Nayak from Yadgir topped the list with ₹12.59 crore in undisclosed wealth.

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

5 must-have tools every kitchen newbie needs

Are you a beginner in the kitchen? If yes, then there are certain items that you must have to make cooking an easy experience.

Mortar and pestle

For that traditional flavour in your recipes, you must own a mortar and pestle. It is an inevitable tool for your kitchen for cracking spices.

Baking stone

Majority of foods are baked in oven these days. The best part of having a baking stone is, it absorbs heat from the oven and enables even cooking of food.

Knife block

Knives need to be placed safely and away from the reach of kids. The best way to keep them safe and maintain their sharpness is by opting for a stylish knife block.

Measuring cups and spoons

Whether you are a beginner or a professional, measuring tools in the kitchen play a vital role in keeping the quantity correct for a perfect dish.

Colander

It is required every day when it comes to cleaning the veggies and chicken. The best part of having it in your kitchen bracket is that it helps in minimal wastage.

– Femina

Fishermen turn sentinels in Coastal security crackdown

Karnataka boosts sea surveillance after strikes on terror camps

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In the wake of intensified military strikes by Indian forces on terror hideouts across the border, the Indian government has ramped up coastal security by involving deep-sea fishermen to serve as frontline observers of any suspicious activity along the nation's extensive 11,098-km coastline. Fisheries officials and Coast Guard personnel in Karnataka held special meetings with local fishermen on Wednesday, particularly in Karwar, to brief them on how to identify and report anything unusual in the seas including floating objects, unauthorized boat movements, or suspicious phone calls.

With Indian naval operations intensifying, the country's coastal surveillance efforts have expanded to include the deep-sea fishing community, turning them into a vital part of a grassroots intelligence network. In Karnataka, which has a 343-km coastline, nearly 4,700 deep-sea fishing boats and over 10,000 motorised traditional boats are now acting as the eyes and ears of maritime security forces.

"The Fisheries Department has been instructed to alert fishermen to inform authorities if they observe anything suspicious at sea. Meetings with fishermen are being conducted at all ports," said a Joint Director of the Fisheries Department. The initiative aims to ensure quick communication and on-ground intelligence gathering in real-time, given the significant number of boats that routinely traverse deep waters, often nearing Gujarat's maritime boundaries. Following India's military action on terror camps, the Uttara Kannada district administration has been holding multiple rounds of meetings with fishing communities to sensitise them about the importance of their role. "We've asked fishermen to report any suspicious boats or individuals they encounter at sea. Daily briefings and information collection have been intensified," said Mithun Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Coastal Security Police. "Their support has become crucial in safeguarding our coastline."

Coastal forces strengthen intelligence using the fishing community's vast maritime presence

> **"The Fisheries Department has been instructed to alert fishermen to inform authorities if they see anything suspicious at sea. Meetings with fishermen are being conducted at all ports"**
> – Joint Director of the Fisheries Department

Authorities are also tightening regulations around the entry of vessels from other states. Fishermen and boat operators have been clearly warned that unauthorized docking will not be tolerated. "No boat from outside the state will be allowed to dock without prior intimation to the Coastal Security Force. Entry will only be allowed after thorough checks. Any violations will attract penalties," SP Kumar added. He confirmed that four boats including three from Kerala have already been fined for bypassing established procedures.

The involvement of local fishing communities reflects a broader national strategy that blends central directives with local execution. Fishermen are being trained to serve as informal sentinels alert and prepared. "If any Pakistani nationals are encountered in our waters, our fishermen are now mentally prepared to block and alert us immediately," Kumar said.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday confirmed that the state has intensified mock drills and security checks across critical infrastructure sites, in line with directions from the Central Government. "In light of the current situation, we've heightened vigilance at key locations including dams and vital public utilities. Preparatory measures are in place in anticipation of any situation that may arise," he said.

Responding to the BJP's allegations about the continued presence of Pakistani nationals in the state, Siddaramaiah clarified, "Most have already been deported. Those who remain, including in Mysuru, have taken legal recourse. Only such individuals are still present. I do not have the exact number of remaining individuals."

Security alert
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said that his government has issued alerts across the state and taken precautionary measures in the wake of rising tensions between India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor. Mock drills are underway and Centre-issued instructions are being followed. Responding to BJP's criticism, Siddaramaiah said nearly all Pakistani nationals had been deported, barring a few legal cases. Temples have been asked to hold special prayers.

13 dead in Pak shelling in Poonch

Thirteen civilians lost their lives in Poonch while a total of 59 people, 44 of them in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, have sustained injuries due to ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC), the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

According to the External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, the intense shelling by the Pakistani Army followed India's May 7 'Operation Sindoor,' during which Indian armed forces targeted nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Since then, Pakistan has resorted to repeated ceasefire violations, including unprovoked small arms fire, in apparent retaliation to the operation and in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. Several civilian areas have suffered damage, forcing residents in border villages to abandon their homes. In the Akhnoor sector, families have moved to temporary shelters amid continuing cross-border firing.

Ajit Singh, a resident of Palatnagarh village near the LoC, said, "Bullets have hit our homes. We were displaced during the Kargil War too. Now, again, we are forced to leave."

Locals recounted the trauma of being woken by shelling in the early hours. "We just want peace," said a villager. Another resident praised the government's response, saying, "The action taken by Prime Minister Modi is good. But we need help my son's house is damaged." Authorities are monitoring the situation and have arranged temporary relief for affected families. **— BMB**

Foreign airlines fly around curbs

Most foreign airlines are avoiding Pakistan airspace in view of the high tensions between Indian and Pakistan, and to comply with airspace curbs. India has closed its airspace for Pakistan airlines from April 30 while Pakistan barred Indian carriers from using its airspace. German major Lufthansa Group on Thursday said it is continuing to monitor the current developments closely. "Due to the current situation, the airlines of the Lufthansa Group are avoiding the airspace of Pakistan until further notice. This will result in longer flight times on some routes to Asia, including, but not limited to, India." Lufthansa operates 64 weekly flights to 5 Indian cities. British carrier Virgin Atlantic said it has been closely monitoring developments and that they had made the decision to avoid Pakistani airspace, "resulting in some pre-planned rerouting of our London to Delhi flights". Virgin Atlantic has 35 weekly flights connecting Indian cities. "Safety and security are always our highest priorities and we continuously assess and adjust our operations accordingly," British Airways said in a statement. The airline has 56 weekly flights to India. **— PTI**

India foils Pak missile strikes, hits back in Lahore

India on Thursday said it had thwarted Pakistan's attempts to strike 15 locations across Northern and Western India using missiles and drones, while also destroying a Pakistani air defence system in Lahore, amid rising tensions between the two nations.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the Pakistani military targeted key Indian military and civilian areas last night, including Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj. The attempted strikes were foiled by India's Integrated Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (ICUAS) and air defence systems.

This escalation came in response to India's Operation Sindoor, under which the Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes early Wednesday on nine terror-related sites in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and parts of Pakistan. The government described the action as a "focused, measured and non-escalatory" counter-terror operation, clarifying that no Pakistani military establishments were initially targeted.

A view of a damaged portion of a mosque, after it was hit by an Indian strike, in Muridke, Pakistan

In a readout, the ministry stated, "Any attack on military targets in India will invite a suitable response." On Thursday morning, Indian forces struck multiple Pakistani air defence radars and systems, matching Pakistan's aggression with "the same domain and same intensity." One of the air defence systems reportedly neutralised was located in Lahore.

India also responded to intensified Pakistani cross-border shelling along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, which included mortar and heavy artillery fire in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar and Rajouri sectors. According to officials, the shelling resulted in the death of 16 civilians, including three women and five children. India reiterated that while it remains committed to avoiding escalation, it reserves the right to respond if provoked. "Indian Armed Forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is respected by the Pakistani military," the statement read.

The strikes came after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which India attributed to the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India had no choice but to act since Pakistan had taken no visible steps to dismantle terror infrastructure under its control. **— PTI**

Fake exam alert fuels chaos as war rumours spread

Forged notice in UGC's name claims nationwide exam cancellations amid 'war-like' tensions, sparking panic among students; commission clarifies notice is fabricated as experts warn cyber scams surge during crises

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A viral public notice, purportedly issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC), claimed that all university exams across India were being indefinitely postponed "due to the current war-like situation" and advised students to return home "until further instructions." The notice circulated widely on social media on Wednesday, amid tensions following the Indian Armed Forces' 'Operation Sindoor' targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. However, the notice has turned out to be fake.

On Wednesday, the UGC clarified that a fake public notice was being circulated in its name. In an X post, the UGC said, "A fabricated public notice is being circulated under the name of the UGC, claiming that all exams are cancelled due to a war situation and advising students to return home. The UGC confirms this notice is fake. There are no such directions from UGC."

The UGC tweet said, "All official updates are available only on the UGC website and its official social media channels. Spreading such misinformation is a punishable offence. Don't fall for fake information. Stay alert. Follow only official UGC sources".

The fake notice, designed to resemble official UGC communication, was widely shared on various social media platforms frequented by students. With phrases like "national security emergency" and "mandatory student evacuation," the notice fueled confusion and panic among outstation students preparing for exams with tentative dates around.

Fake UGC-style notice citing "national security emergency" spreads on social media, causing panic

> **"People are more likely to fall for emotional appeals during a crisis, especially when they seem to come from trusted instituitons**
> –Cybersecurity expert

However, the clarification comes amid a surge in misinformation that followed India's strike on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, a development that triggered a wave of false content spreading rapidly online.

This is not an isolated case. Cybercrime expert Dr Harsha Thennarasu, Chief Cyber Security Advisor, warns that such misinformation campaigns typically spike during moments when serious issues are going on. "These types of cybercrime incidents, driven by current trends, are known as seasonal cyber attacks. Trend-based phishing scams often deceive innocent users, giving attackers access to their mobile phones," explained Dr Harsha Thennarasu, Chief Cyber Security Advisor.

Further, Dr Harsha explains that alongside fake academic advisories, other fraudulent messages have begun to circulate. These include clickbait headlines and emails purportedly from fictitious government bodies impersonating defence or government agencies with urgent requests. Some emails even mimic the formats of ministries, urging citizens to contribute to defence funds through dubious links. Cyber scam notices can also include requesting donations, such as seeking funds for war victims or relief efforts.

"This is not just mischief; it's manipulation with intent to scam," warned a cybersecurity expert. "People are more likely to fall for emotional appeals during a crisis, especially when they seem to come from trusted institutions."

Dr Harsha urges people to avoid clicking on suspicious PDFs or video files claiming to contain confidential war documents or exclusive footage—these may carry malware. Be cautious of social media posts with fake links, unusual SMS alerts, or messages with red warning signs and lock icons. Always verify the source before forwarding, as tracing the origin of such messages becomes difficult once shared. Stay away from WhatsApp or SMS hoaxes with links to phishing sites. Emotional videos related to attacks that show a black screen despite good internet may be attempts to drop malware onto your device. If you receive any suspicious links, videos, or emails, report them immediately to the cybercrime portal. Educate elders and family members about such scams and ensure antivirus software is installed.

Man's half-burnt body discovered

The half-burnt body of a 27-year-old man was found at the edge of the Anekal forest area on Thursday.

The Bannerghatta police officials and forensic science lab (FSL) teams rushed to the spot near Bhutanahalli, survey number 67, following a call from a resident, Danagahiorvan, who found the body in Shilindradoddy, part of the Bannerghatta forest region. Upon inspection, officials found a two-wheeler nearby, which led to the identification of the deceased as Madhusudan, a resident of JP Nagar.

Police officials said preliminary investigations point to suicide due to financial losses and health issues, though the condition of the body raises suspicions. However, no suicide note was found. Madhusudan was reportedly working at a Trading company. The body has been sent for postmortem, and police are examining CCTV footage and phone records to gather more information. Bannerghatta police have registered a case, and further investigation is underway.

Forest produce owned by state

The Karnataka High Court has determined that under the State Forest Act, forest produce is presumptively owned by the State government, with the onus of disproving this presumption falling on individuals charged with offences like illegal transportation.

Section 80 of the Act stipulates that in proceedings related to forest produce, such produce is considered State Government property unless proven otherwise, with the accused bearing the responsibility of establishing contrary evidence in prosecution cases.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj delivered this ruling whilst dismissing a petition by Raviraja Rai M, who had contested the sessions court's decision affirming the authorities' confiscation of his pick-up vehicle used for unauthorised timber transportation.

'Bengaluru is doomed': Citizen claims BBMP chief blocked her on X

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

After taking charge as BBMP's (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) new Chief Commissioner, Maheshwar Rao held his first press conference. On this occasion, he gave detailed information about the preparations for the upcoming monsoon and the major issues of the capital. However, a video highlighting a massive garbage dump in Banashankari has sparked controversy after the newly appointed BBMP Commissioner reportedly blocked a concerned citizen on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

The incident came to light when user @Neethuneetha posted a video tagging the BBMP and its commissioner, seeking immediate action on the uncollected garbage pile-up. The video quickly gained

traction online, with several users sharing similar grievances.

However, instead of a response, @Neethuneetha claimed she was blocked by the new commissioner. In a follow-up post, she wrote, "New BBMP Commissioner is no different. Just one complaint, he will block you... Bengaluru is doomed... BBMP will destroy Bangalore."

To which BBMP responded, stating that no individual has been blocked. The move has sparked a heated conversation on X, with many users expressing concern over the lack of transparency and accountability in the civic body. "Not acceptable. Then don't collect any tax. Public service isn't meant to pick and choose who benefits, so ignoring others is unjustified," one user commented.

While the BBMP is yet to release an official statement on the matter, the incident has reignited debates about the responsiveness of city administrators and the state of waste management in Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, during a press conference, BBMP officials stated that as per directions, efforts are being made to ensure the city remains clean. Nearly 90% of identified black spots have already been cleared. Zonal commissioners have been instructed to improve the cleanliness and upkeep of areas with high footfall, such as bus stands and railway stations, to enhance the commuter experience.

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WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

KPTCL invites applications from retired civil engineers who have served in state government departments/PSUs for more than 35 years of continuous service and retired as SEs & above rank, aged below 65 years. The selected candidate will be appointed as Special Officer (Civil) on a contract basis to assist the management of KPTCL in civil engineering works related to electrical sub-stations, transmission lines, and other projects across the state.
Interested candidates are requested to attend the walk-in interview with the required documents. (i) Aadhar Card (age proof) (ii) retirement certificate (iii) other credentials to prove their suitability in KPTCL works.

Walk-in- Interview schedule

Date	Venue	Time
16.5.2025	Corporate Office, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru.	11.00 am To 12.15 PM

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Civil),
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavana, Bengaluru-09

30% of home theft cases go unsolved

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through the Seva Sindhu app, where local police stations carry out the background check once the individual's details are submitted. However, very few people actually use this facility, leading to a gap in the verification.

In several of the theft cases involving house helps, the accused had used false names, fake references, or moved frequently across neighbourhoods, making it difficult to track them. What is even more shocking is that fewer than half of these cases have seen arrests or recovery of stolen goods.

"In many cases, families don't even have a photo or a full name. No ID, no address proof, just a first name and a phone number that's already switched off," a senior police official stated.

Earlier this year in Malleswaram, a family lost cash and jewelry worth over ₹5 lakh when a newly hired nanny fled in the middle of the night. CCTV footage showed her boarding an auto with a packed bag, but the lack of verification made it hard to identify her. In another case in JP Nagar, a part-time cook vanished with valuables from the house when the family was out of town, leaving no trace behind.

Why no checks?

We spoke to an expert to understand why people hesitate to do background checks.

"Part of it is cultural," explains a sociologist at a city university. "We are brought up to trust people in service roles because we see them every day, and often assume loyalty without verification. Add to that the guilt or awkwardness of asking for ID, it's an emotional decision, not a practical one."

> **"In many cases, families don't even have a photo or a full name. No ID, no address proof, just a first name and a phone number that's already switched off**
>
> –Police official

Time constraints, informal hiring through neighbours or WhatsApp groups, and class-based assumptions also play a role, she adds. "There's a blind spot that comes from believing crimes only happen 'elsewhere', until it's too late."

To reduce the risk of domestic theft, police advise residents to take a few simple but crucial precautions. Always ask for valid identification and take a clear photograph of the domestic worker before hiring them. Conduct a basic background check, either independently or through reliable verification services available at the Seva Sindhu app. It is also important to keep valuables securely locked away, especially during the initial days of employment when trust is still being built.

With over 30% of domestic thefts going unsolved due to lack of information, experts stress the need for both systemic reform and public awareness.

Give athletes who won medals at Dwarf Games cash awards, state govt told

The High Court has instructed the State Government to provide cash awards to athletes with physical challenges who secured medals at the 7th World Dwarf Games held in August 2017.

Justice M Nagaprasanna granted the petition by CV Rajanna and others, ordering, "Respondents to grant cash awards to the petitioners as claimed by them in terms of Government Order dated 30-11-2013. This order shall be complied within a period of eight weeks."

The petitioners, affected by Dwarfism, a medical condition causing stunted body growth, are athletes who have represented India in various sporting events, particularly the World Dwarf Games, held quadrennially.

World Dwarf Game serves as an international multi-sport competition for athletes of short stature, comparable to Paralympics.

The Dwarf Sports Federation of India, collaborating with Karnataka Sports Association for physically handicapped, selected 26 athletes, including the petitioners from Karnataka, to compete in the 2017 World Dwarf Games in Canada.

The State has established guidelines for cash awards to athletes securing gold, silver and bronze medals in world championships. Despite winning medals at the World Dwarf Games on 12-08-2017, these athletes received no compensation.

Their initial High Court petition in 2021 resulted in directions for the government to review their representation. Subsequently, the government rejected their representation on 13-01-2022.

The petitioners approached the court again, which in 2024 directed fresh consideration of their case, following the Division Bench judgment in State of Karnataka v. Sri Niranjan Mukundan and connected case from 21-06-2022. This led to the contested order dated 28-07-2024.

The petitioners argued they previously received cash prizes and benefits under earlier government orders. They emphasised the importance of encouraging physically disabled athletes through monetary rewards.

The government contested the claim, stating the participants entered the competition independently, without state sponsorship, and therefore cannot demand cash prizes.

Pakistani minors' plea rejected

The Karnataka High Court rejected a plea on Thursday from three minor Pakistani nationals requesting permission to remain in Mysuru until May 15. The minors sought protection from coercive action until their departure after attending a wedding ceremony scheduled for May 12.

The court acknowledged that the Union government had cancelled various visa categories for Pakistani nationals, requiring them to exit India by April 27, following a terrorist incident targeting tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22. This decision was based on the Cabinet Committee on Security's assessment.

Justice M.G. Uma, whilst dismissing the petition, stated that the Indian government's decision prioritised citizen safety and security, and the court would not intervene in such matters.

—BMB

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I, S. CHANDRASEKARAN S/o. KV SANKARANARAYANAN R/o E-44/4, Phase 2, DRDO Township, CV Raman Nagar, Bangalore - 560093 have changed my name from S. CHANDRASEKARAN to S. CHANDRASEKHARAN vide Affidavit dated 07.05.2025 before Notary Public A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

I, MOORTHY SRITHARAN S/o NANDI MOORTHY R/o 1B, FIRST FLOOR, YESHUS RESIDENCY, No.14/2, CURLEY STREET, BENGALURU 560025 have changed my name to SREETHARAN MURTHY Affidavit Date 08/05/2025 Notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I Mayuri Hemant Athavale, D/o Hemant Shanker Athavale ,r/o B-301, Ozone Evergreens, Main Haralur Road, Bangalore-560102 have changed my name to Mayuri Shravan Hegde ,w/o Shravan Shashidhar Hegde, For all purposes.

I, Abdul Samad Mohamed Dastagir s/o Abdul wajid R/o No.269,Salma Farookh man - sion, Police colony, Hoysala nagar, Beeranahallikere, Alur, Hassan 573201 present camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Mohamed Ghouse Affidavit Dt.08/05/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Yogish Jagannath R/o #314,1st floor, 7th Main 7th A Crosss MEI layout Bagalagunte Hessarghatta Rd B'luru-560073 have changed my name to Yogesh Jagannath

I, Abharana P Selvan, D/o P.A Panneer Selvan, R/at No. 594, 2nd Floor, 7th Main, 10th Cross, J.P Nagar 3rd Phase, Bangalore-560078 have changed my name to Abharana Panneer Selvan, vide affidavit dt: 02.05.2025 sworn before notary H.S Dharma Prasad, Bangalore

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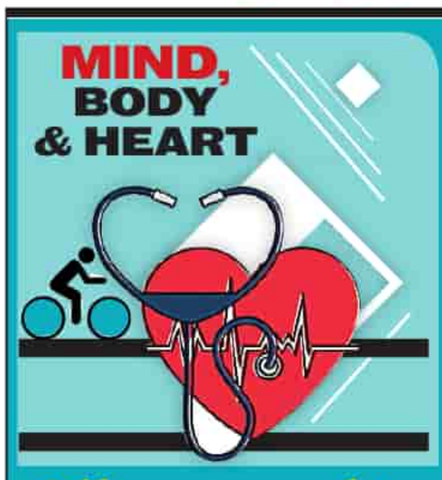

All you need to know about...

Include nuts in diet

Small changes
Nutritionist Kavita Devgan says, "When it comes to healthy living, small changes make a big impact. Snacking smart with nutrient-dense foods like nuts can transform the way we nourish ourselves- one handful at a time."

Snack smart
Swap your chips and biscuits for a handful of unsalted almonds, pistachios, pumpkin seeds, walnuts, or cashews. They're portable, mess-free, and satisfying. A mix of roasted nuts and dried fruit can also double as a homemade trail mix—just go easy on the portions (a small fistful is plenty).

Breakfast
Boost your morning routine by adding a handful of healthy nuts to your smoothie or yoghurt. Rich in good fats and essential nutrients, nuts provide a slow and steady release of energy—keeping you full and focused right through to lunchtime.

Snack mix
Make a DIY trail mix using macadamia nuts, sunflower seeds, chia seeds, pumpkin seeds, and sesame seeds. This brain-boosting, sugar-curbing snack is ideal for busy days and travels well in small containers, making it the perfect mid-day pick-me-up.

Nut butters
Nut butters are versatile beyond toast. Use them as a dip for apple or banana slices, a drizzle over pancakes or waffles or a base for salad dressings or satay sauce. Go for natural nut butters with no added sugar or hydrogenated oils to keep it wholesome.

In salad
Elevate your salads, Buddha bowls, or roasted veggies with a sprinkle of crushed nuts and seeds—like Turkish hazelnuts, pumpkin seeds, or sesame seeds. These add a rich, buttery crunch while boosting the flavour and satiety of your meal. Plus, the healthy fats in nuts and seeds enhance nutrient absorption from leafy greens and other veggies.

— Femina

Well, to be honest...

Being honest about using AI at work makes people trust you less, research finds

Whether you're using AI to write cover letters, grade papers or draft ad campaigns, you might want to think twice about telling others. That simple act of disclosure can make people trust you less, our new peer-reviewed article found.

As researchers who study trust, we see this as a paradox. After all, being honest and transparent usually makes people trust you more. But across 13 experiments involving more than 5,000 participants, we found a consistent pattern: Revealing that you relied on AI undermines how trustworthy you seem.

Participants in our study included students, legal analysts, hiring managers and investors, among others. Interestingly, we found that even evaluators who were tech-savvy were less trusting of people who said they used AI. While having a positive view of technology reduced the effect slightly, it didn't erase it.

Why would being open and transparent about using AI make people trust you less? One reason is that people still expect human effort in writing, thinking and innovating. When AI steps into that role and you highlight it, your work looks less legitimate.

But there's a caveat: If you're using AI on the job, the cover-up may be worse than the crime. We found that quietly using AI can trigger the steepest decline in trust if others uncover it later. So being upfront may ultimately be a better policy.

Why it matters

A global survey of 13,000 people found that about half had used AI at work, often for tasks such as writing emails or analyzing data. People typically assume that being open about using these tools is the right choice.

Yet our research suggests doing so may backfire. This creates a dilemma for those who value honesty but also need to rely on trust to maintain strong relationships with clients and colleagues. In fields where credibility is essential – such as finance, health care and higher education – even a small loss of trust can damage a career or brand.

The consequences go beyond individual reputations. Trust is often called the social "glue" that holds society together. It drives collaboration, boosts morale and keeps customers loyal. When that trust is shaken, entire organizations can feel the effects through lower productivity, reduced motivation and weakened team cohesion.

If disclosing AI use sparks suspicion, users face a difficult choice: embrace transparency and risk a backlash, or stay silent and risk being exposed later – an outcome our findings suggest erodes trust even more.

That's why understanding the AI transparency dilemma is so important. Whether you're a manager rolling out new technology or an artist deciding whether to credit AI in your portfolio, the stakes are rising.

What still isn't known

It's unclear whether this transparency penalty will fade over time. As AI becomes more widespread – and potentially more reliable – disclosing its use may eventually seem less suspect.

There's also no consensus on how organizations should handle AI disclosure. One option is to make transparency completely voluntary, which leaves the decision to disclose to the individual. Another is a mandatory disclosure policy across the board. Our research suggests that the threat of being exposed by a third party can motivate compliance if the policy is stringently enforced through tools such as AI detectors.

A third approach is cultural: building a workplace where AI use is seen as normal, accepted and legitimate. We think this kind of environment could soften the trust penalty and support both transparency and credibility.

(Oliver Schilke and Martin Reimann, University of Arizona, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Shingles vaccine can protect heart health up to 8 years: Study

People who are given a vaccine for shingles -- zoster vaccine -- have a 23 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular events, including stroke, heart failure, and coronary heart disease, according to a study of more than a million people.

The live zoster vaccine contains a weakened form of the varicella-zoster virus that causes shingles.

Shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash. It has also been linked to a higher risk of heart problems.

The condition can lead to serious complications, especially in older adults and those with weak immune systems.

The study showed that protective effect of the vaccine lasts for up to eight years and is particularly pronounced for men, people under the age of 60, and those with unhealthy lifestyles, such as smoking, drinking alcohol, and being inactive.

"Our study suggests that the shingles vaccine may help lower the risk of heart disease, even in people without known risk factors. This means that vaccination could offer health benefits beyond preventing shingles," said Professor Dong Keon Yon from the Kyung Hee University College of Medicine in Seoul, South Korea.

The study included 1,271,922 people aged 50 or older living in South Korea.

The findings showed that among people who received the vaccine, there was a 23 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular events overall, with a 26 per cent lower risk of major cardiovascular events (a stroke, heart attack, or death from heart disease), a 26 per cent lower risk of heart failure and a 22 per cent lower risk of coronary heart disease.

Yon explained that shingles infection can damage blood vessels, and cause inflammation and clot formation that can lead to heart disease. But vaccination may lower these risks.

"Our study found stronger benefits in younger people, probably due to a better immune response, and in men, possibly due to differences in vaccine effectiveness," the researcher said.

Previous research shows that, without vaccination, about 30 per cent of people may develop shingles in their lifetime. **—IANS**

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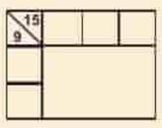
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

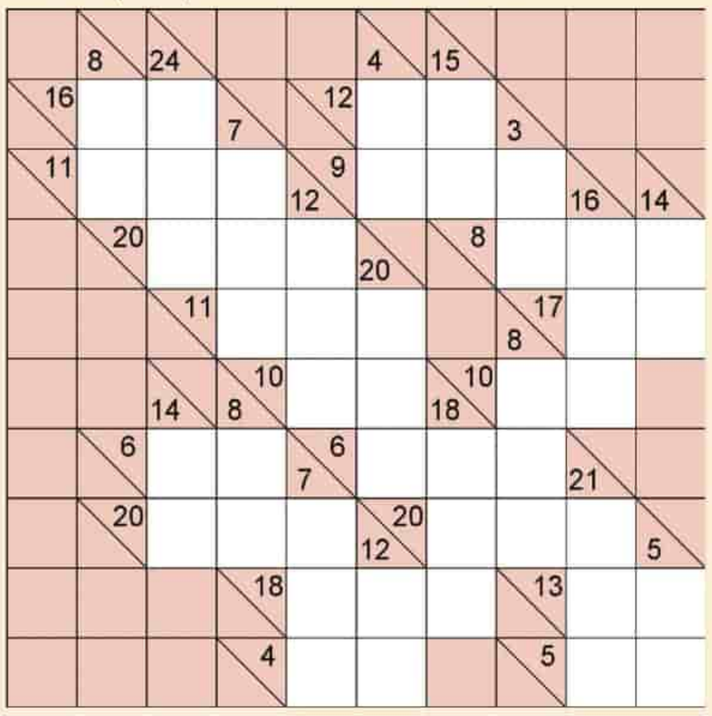
3^2^3 – (3^2)^4 = ?

Kakuro

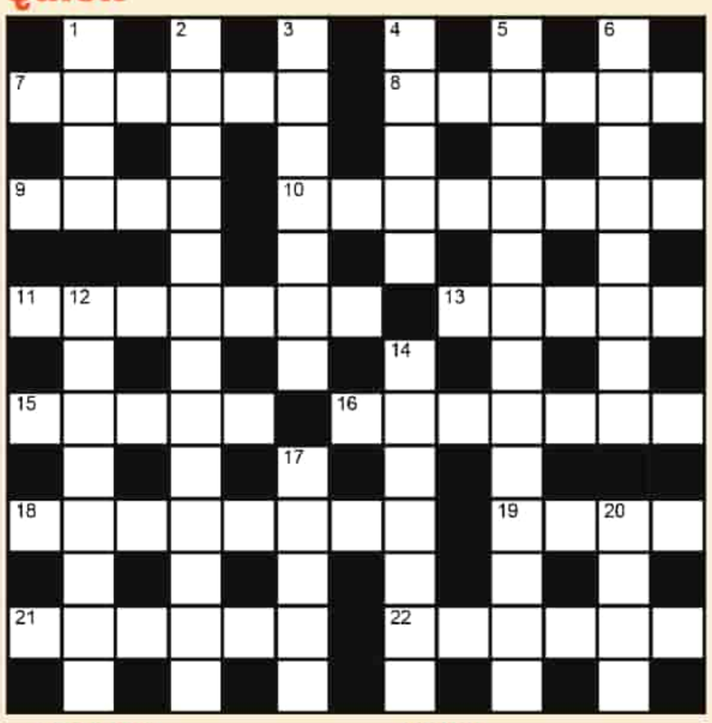
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Batting legend ___ Tendulkar (6)
8 Unethical (6)
9 Appear (4)
10 Explosive device with a ticker? (4-4)
11 Ideal (7)
13 Weight of 14lb (5)
15 Intends to (5)
16 Deteriorate (7)
18 Decathlon event (4,4)
19 American cat (4)
21 Drive forward (6)
22 Period of immaturity (6)

DOWN

1 Glass slab (4)
2 Major contests in sports, etc (13)
3 Beginning (7)
4 Destiny, fate (5)
5 Placing an object to on or trip an unsuspecting person (5,8)
6 Items of clothing (8)
12 First showing of play or film (8)
14 Reply (7)
17 City in North Karnataka (5)
20 Drinking cups (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS G

JH ZKP QZPT KZE XKZA EZ ADJUD OZME ZKP JT TIJFJKN, KZ AJKQ JT HISZYMIRFP.

Line maro

Hi, I'm Mr Right. Someone said you were looking for me

Mind chow

Good advice is something a man gives when he is too old to set a bad example

Joke of the day

A teacher asked one of the boys in her class, "Can people predict the future with cards?" His response was, "My mother can." The teacher replied, "Really?" The young boy was quick to explain, "Yes, she takes one look at my report card and tells me what will happen when my father gets home."

Loop

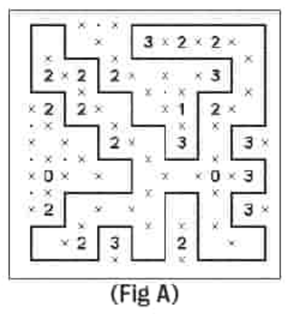
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

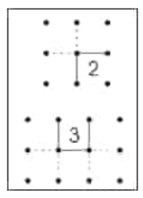
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

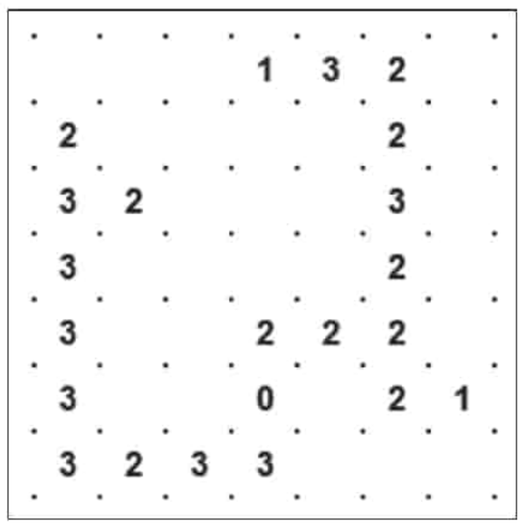
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



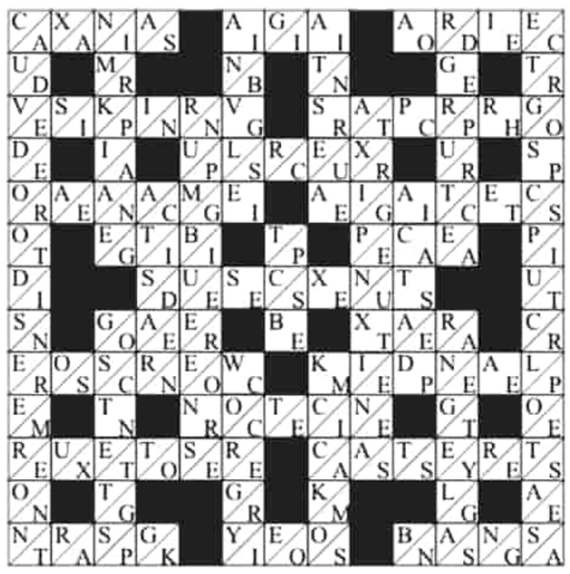
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



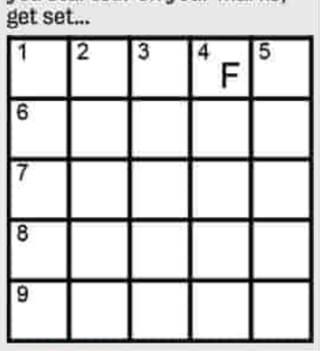
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

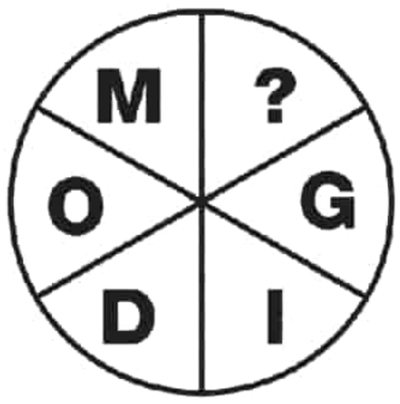
1 CF Art; 6 Abila;
7 Idly S; 8 Nus is;
9 I'm gem

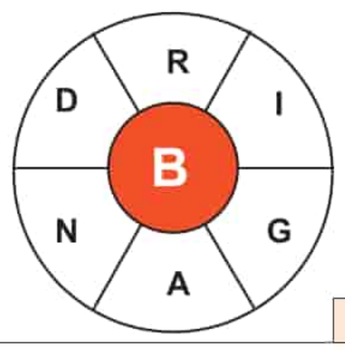
DOWN

1 Cin LG; 2 Raid I;
3 By SAM; 4 Flu I'm;
5 Seats

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark to complete the puzzle?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

16 Average; 18 Good; 20 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1			7			2
6								
	3		8	6		4	1	
7		6		3				
	5		9		6		3	
				5		8		7
	6	5		9	4		2	
								3
8			1			7		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10
1 4 5 8

Medium = 28
2 3 4 7

Hard = 1
2 3 9 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

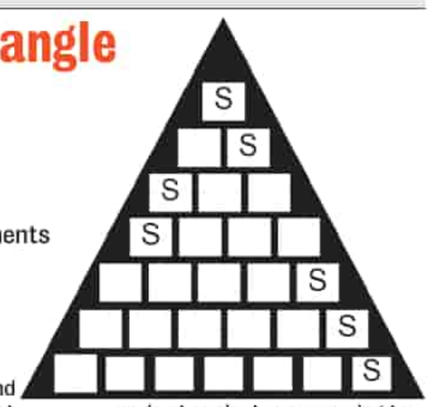
Differences: 1. Wheel is not showing. 2. Golf bag strap is missing. 3. Mouth is different. 4. Bush is smaller. 5. There are fewer leaves on tree. 6. Arm is moved.

Riddler

Soft as a diamond Or egg all aboil Rudder full starboard The measure of toil

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 _ easy _ a pie
3 Used a chair
4 Male deer
5 Ways of walking
6 Free
7 Stringed instruments

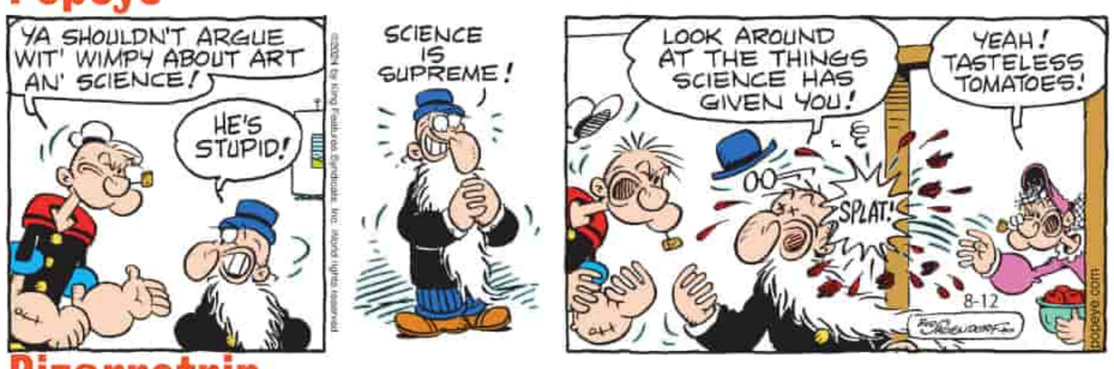


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

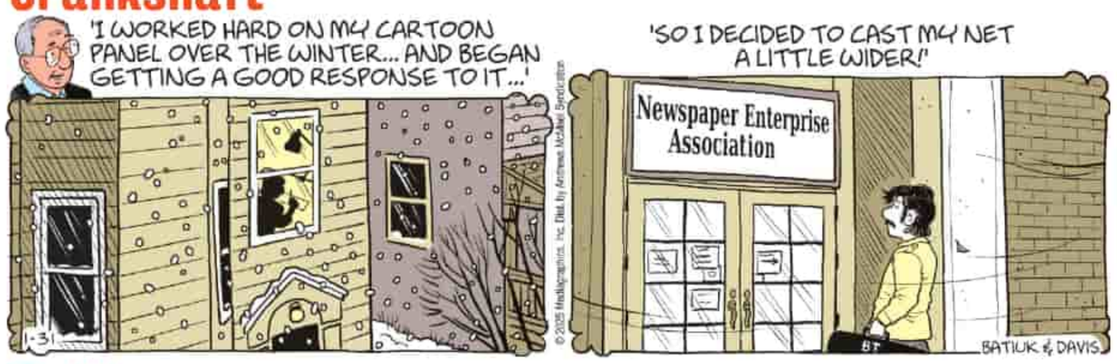
Wayno & 3 Pirates 1-31-25
I'll paint the chapel ceiling with pigments made of dried chili peppers.
MICHELANCHO
©2025 Bizarro Studios

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

BEEP BEEP! BEEP BEEP!
UUUUGH WHY IS MY ALARM GOING OFF AT 5 A.M.?
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
WHAT AM I DOING IN MY MOM'S BED? DID I SLEEP HERE LAST NIGHT? AND WHERE IS MY MOM?
UGH... MY EYES ARE SO BLURRY. LEMME WASH MY FACE.
AAAHHH!!!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL

Crankshaft


'I WORKED HARD ON MY CARTOON PANEL OVER THE WINTER... AND BEGAN GETTING A GOOD RESPONSE TO IT...'
'SO I DECIDED TO CAST MY NET A LITTLE WIDER!'
Newspaper Enterprise Association
BATIUK & DAVIS
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Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the Moon. You may feel an inner strength that helps you make difficult decisions at work. Disputes with your partner are likely to be resolved. Singles might find a good match through relatives or friends. External sources may also contribute investments to your business.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The Moon brings confidence and inner strength today, which will reflect positively in your work. Good news related to legal matters may arrive. Stuck money may be recovered, boosting your savings. Children's health shows improvement. Try to avoid unnecessary arguments in domestic life.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Blessings today may lead to gains from past investments. You might plan to renovate your home or office. You could invest in intellectual assets, such as books or higher education. Singles may find a soulmate in a related field. Those in research, education, or agriculture may perform particularly well.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel dissatisfied today. Arrogance could affect both personal and professional relationships. Pressure and impatience might lead to detachment from responsibilities. You're advised to care for your parents and postpone important work decisions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today brings happiness. Property-related issues with siblings may be resolved. You might meet an influential person who can help advance your work. Professional contacts could also contribute to business growth. Trust your intuition before investing in fixed assets, as they might not yield returns. A short work-related trip may arise.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may be busy with family and friends, possibly planning an outing or adventure. Children's health might be a concern. However, the Moon's blessing can guide you toward success. Savings may increase, contributing positively to your financial health.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Vitality and inner strength define your day. You might make strong plans for growing the family business. With elders' blessings and team support, you can implement these efficiently. Your wisdom may help you make sound decisions, enhancing your social reputation.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Health may be a concern today. Lack of sleep might make you mentally tired and unfocused. Laziness could affect your commitments. Avoid driving fast or engaging in risky adventures. Be cautious about spending on unnecessary or unworthy items.

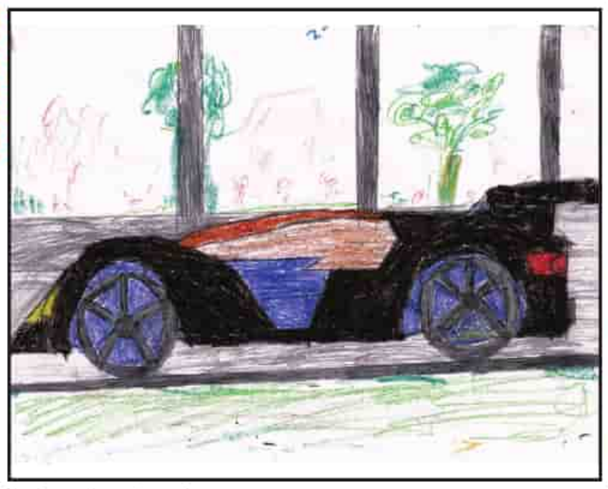
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may be involved in social gatherings and reconnecting with old friends. Strengthened networking could lead to future career benefits. Those in export, glamour, or artefacts-related fields may perform well. Students will likely do well in their studies. Lovebirds will enjoy happy moments together.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Family support will be strong today. You may consider expanding your family business, which could elevate your social status. Planning for a new child is also possible, which may strengthen family bonds. Students might apply for scholarships or other opportunities for higher education.

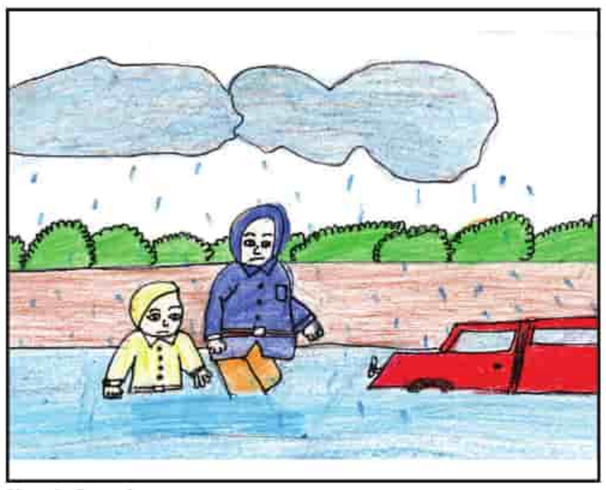
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may feel more spiritual, and your luck is likely to support you. Gains from previous investments are expected. Your relationship with your boss could improve, leading to promotions. Good news from a sibling may arrive. Avoid harsh speech in personal and romantic relationships to maintain harmony.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You might suffer from sleeplessness, leading to laziness and carelessness, which could impact your confidence and productivity. Nervousness at work may affect ongoing projects. Avoid investing in non-productive assets. Stay away from spicy food to prevent digestive issues, and drive safely.

KIDZONE



Yashwardhan, Bengaluru



Akarsh, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
band, bang, bard, barling, barn, blind, bird, brad, brag, brald, brain, bran, brand, brig, BRIGAND, bring, drab, garb, grab, rabid

RIDDLER Hard

SOLVE IN 1M
3·2·3 = 3·8
(3·2)·4 = 3·8
= 3·8-3·8 = 0

FAST FIVE

C	R	A	F	T
L	A	B	I	A
I	D	Y	L	S
N	I	S	U	S
G	I	M	M	E

STRIKE OUT

A	X	I	S		A	G	A		O	D	I	C		
D	R		N		T		E		R					
V	I	K	I	N	G		S	A	P	P	H	O		
E	I		U	L	C	E	R		U		S			
R	E	N	A	M	E		A	G	A	T	E	S		
	T	G	I	B		P		E	C	E		P		
I		D	E	S	C	E	N	T				U		
S		O	E	R		B		T	E	A		R		
E	S	C	R	O	W		K	I	D	N	A	P		
M		T		N	O	T	I	N		G		O		
E	X	E	T	E	R		C	A	T	E	R	S		
N		T		R	K			L				E		
T	A	S	K		Y	E	S		B	A	G	S		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
R. The sum of the numerical values of letters in opposite segments of the circle is always 22.

QUOTE UNCODE
If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favourable.

SUDOKU

8	4	9	1	2	3	7	5	6
1	7	2	6	8	5	9	4	3
3	6	5	7	9	4	1	2	8
9	2	3	4	5	1	8	6	7
4	5	8	9	7	6	2	3	1
7	1	6	2	3	8	5	9	4
2	3	7	8	6	9	4	1	5
6	8	4	5	1	2	3	7	9
5	9	1	3	4	7	6	8	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Sat, Stag, Gaits, Gratis, Guitars.

GO FIGURE
8 - 4 + 5 + 1 = 10
Medium
3 + 7 + 4 x 2 = 28
Hard
8 - 9 + 3 / 2 = 1

LOOP

KAKURO

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